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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The U.S. government, via the USAF, trained me to use and repair computers over 30 years ago. One of the first things I learned was that there are two kinds of software: operating system software and application software.

The operating system software, such as Windows, controls how the computer functions, whether it be one with an Intel Pentium or another manufacturer's CPU chip.

Application software consists of programs that use the computer to perform tasks, such as word processing, money management, or browsing the internet.

By Microsoft controlling the operating system market for PCs, they have unfairly competed in the marketplace for years.

By allowing Microsoft to continue to modify its operating system and add application software to it, you are allowing Microsoft to retain their monopoly and unfair advantage.

Microsoft will continue to stifle competition by using its unfair advantage. Consider that Netscape, who developed the network browser, has had to practically give its software away. In 2-3 years, why will anyone want to buy RealPlayer software when Microsoft will have imbedded their media player software in the operating system?

The only way to settle this issue fairly for all concerned is to split Microsoft into two companies. By requiring Microsoft to form a company that produces only operating systems, you will not only make the marketplace more fair for all application software companies, you will force Microsoft to make the best operating system they can.

And, yes, the world needs a better operating system, not just the operating system Microsoft allows consumers to buy. I want an operating system that will efficiently use the software I want to install, not an operating system

that is loaded with applications I might not want.

By requiring Microsoft to form a company that produces only application software, you will place Microsoft into a position where the quality of their software determines whether they succeed, not because they can use their operating system to an unfair advantage.

Splitting Microsoft into two companies would give application software companies a fair chance to succeed. Real and fair competition will return and innovation will drive the market.

In the last 20 years, Microsoft has earned billions of dollars in profits, often at the expense of other companies. Consider Netscape who has had to give away their product. Consider Novell who had the best networking software available, but fell because Microsoft put networking software in their NT operating system. There are dozens, if not hundreds, more.

The settlement that has been negotiated is laughable. It does not change anything. Microsoft will continue with their current way of doing business. And innovation and competition will continue to be stifled.

Respectfully,
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